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10/762,179	01/21/2004	Shahriar Vazan	D/A3412	4777

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EXAMINER

PHAM, HAI CHI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2861	

DATE MAILED: 12/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/762,179	VAZAN, SHAHRIAR	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hai C. Pham	2861	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 January 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01/21/04.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 9 is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - Line 2, "said analog to digital converters" should read --said digital to analog converters--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.
3. Claims 4 and 5 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 4:

- Line 3, "said coefficient values" lacks antecedent basis.

Claim 5:

- Line 3, "said coefficient values" lacks antecedent basis.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 6-7, 13-14 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guerin (EP 0829933) in view of Nelson (U.S. 5,151,718).

With regard to claims 1 and 6, Guerin discloses a raster output scanner having a VCSEL print head (42), which comprises a linear array of vertical cavity laser diodes (d₁ ... d₅) as light sources with an integrated set of photodetectors (detectors S₁ ... S₅), a beam splitter (plate 70) (Fig. 7) for deflecting the light beams emitted from the VCSEL light sources onto the detector array (the plate 70 allows 95% of the light beam to pass through and reflects the remaining portion of the light beam back toward the detector array) (col. 5, lines 25-35), and an array of feedback loops for simultaneously adjusting beam intensity using the drivers for each said light beam, wherein each of the drivers uses said photodetector array as a reference source to adjust for parallel beam to beam uniformity correction produced by said array of light sources (col. 5, lines 53-57). With regard to claims 14 and 19, Guerin further teaches using either a one-dimensional array of VCSELs or a two-dimensional array of VCSELs as light sources provided with corresponding one-dimensional or two-dimensional detectors (col. 6, lines 19-26).

Guerin fails to teach the VCSEL drivers being programmable drivers.

Nelson teaches a an image forming apparatus comprising an array of LED chips (71) independently driven by drivers (82) provided on driver chip (81), the driver chip being programmable (col. 6, lines 29-52).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to provide programmable drivers to independently drive each of the light emitting elements in the VCSEL array of Guerin as taught by Nelson. The motivation for doing so would have been to enhance or reduce the light output of the individual light emitting elements as suggested by Nelson.

The method claim 7 is deemed to be clearly anticipated by functions of the above structures.

6. Claims 2-4, 8, 10-11, 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guerin in view of Nelson, as applied to claims 1, 7, 14 above, and further in view of Rajeswaran (U.S. 5,917,534).

Guerin discloses all the basic limitations of the claimed invention including using a well known conventional method for correcting the non-uniformity of the output power of the individual light emitting elements, but fails to explicitly disclose the digital to analog converters and the non-volatile memory for storing the calibrated uniformity values.

Rajeswaran discloses an image forming apparatus having an LED print head comprising light-emitting diode arrays with integrated photodetector arrays disposed in a one-to-one relationship, and provided with an array of feedback loops for correcting the

non-uniformity of the light output of each of the light-emitting diodes due to aging of the light-emitting diodes (col. 13, lines 23-61), the feedback loop including a digital to analog converter (61, Fig. 13) for converting the digital signal stored in the target data register (62) so as to control the current driver (65) to adjust the current to the LED (Fig. 13) (col. 9, line 55 to col. 10, line 11). Rajeswaran further teaches using register (LCU 175, Fig. 17) for storing the empirically determined correction values for the target data to control the current driving the light-emitting diodes (col. 9, lines 29-54).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the digital to analog converters and the memory for storing the empirically determined correction values for the drive current in the device of Guerin as taught by Rajeswaran. The motivation for doing so would have been to correct the non-uniformity of the light output of the light emitting diodes in real time.

7. Claims 5, 9, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guerin in view of Nelson and Rajeswaran, as applied to claims 1, 7 above, and further in view of Kamimura (U.S. 6,266,077).

Guerin, as modified by Nelson and Rajeswaran, discloses all the basic limitations of the claimed invention except for the correction values being mathematically derived.

Kamimura discloses a feedback loop control device for compensating the output variations in a printing head, which comprises an LED array (15), the feedback control loop including a non-volatile memory (13) for storing the coefficient values for correction

based on the summation/average of the measured light output of the LEDs or a piecewise linear function (col. 6, line 65 to col. 7, line 9).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to use a linear transformation or a summation/averaging method to derive the coefficient values for correcting the non-uniformity of the light output in the device of Guerin as taught by Kamimura. The motivation for doing so would have been to not only correcting the output variations of each of the light emitting diodes but also to uniformly control the light output across the entire set of the light emitting elements in the array.

8. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guerin in view of Nelson, as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Kamimura.

Guerin, as modified by Nelson, discloses all the basic limitations of the claimed invention except for the correction values being mathematically derived.

Kamimura discloses a feedback loop control device for compensating the output variations in a printing head, which comprises an LED array (15), the feedback control loop including a non-volatile memory (13) for storing the coefficient values for correction based on the summation/average of the measured light output of the LEDs or a piecewise linear function (col. 6, line 65 to col. 7, line 9).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to use a linear transformation or a summation/averaging method to derive the coefficient values for correcting the non-uniformity of the light

output in the device of Guerin as taught by Kamimura. The motivation for doing so would have been to not only correcting the output variations of each of the light emitting diodes but also to uniformly control the light output across the entire set of the light emitting elements in the array.

9. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guerin in view of Nelson, as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Ema et al. (U.S. 6,118,798).

Guerin, as modified by Nelson, discloses all the basic limitations of the claimed invention except for the 8-bit digital to analog converter.

Ema et al. discloses a semiconductor laser control system for adjusting the light output of the laser used in a laser printer, the system including a feedback loop having a 5-bit digital to analog converter for correcting the drive current of the laser. Ema et al. further suggests increasing the number of bits of the digital to analog converter so as to obtain a higher accuracy.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to incorporate a high bit digital to analog converter in the control device of Guerin as taught by Ema et al. for the purpose of providing a highly accurate control system for adjusting the drive current of the light emitting diodes.

Pertinent Prior Art

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hara et al. (U.S. 4,857,944) discloses an LED printer comprising an array of light sources each having a driver for producing a corresponding light beam, an array of photodetectors, and an array of feedback loops for simultaneously adjusting beam intensity using said drivers for each said light beam.

Hass et al. (U.S. 6,515,693) discloses a calibration station in which the light beam intensity of the light sources of the printhead is individually controlled in a feedback loop, the control circuit is provided with a beamsplitter for directing part of the light emitted from the plurality of light sources to the sensor.

Kent (EP 0710005) discloses a control system for used in an image forming apparatus for adjusting the light output of the surface emitting lasers (SELs) provided as a one-dimensional or two-dimensional SEL array.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai C. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-2260. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM - 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David L. Talbott can be reached on (571) 272-1934. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hai Pham

HAI PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

December 27, 2005